

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-11 LAB-06

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 5621

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, BL

SUBJECT: MINERS FEDERATION PLANS A NEW CENTRAL OBRERA
BOLIVIANA

REF: LA PAZ 5364, 4988

1. REPORTEDLY, POLITICAL INDEPENDENTS IN THE MINERS FEDERATION (FSTMB) LED BY SECRETARY GENERAL VICTOR LOPEZ WILL BE CONTACTING LEADERS IN KEY LABOR SECTORS IN AN EFFORT TO CREATE A NEW ORGANIZATION TO TAKE THE PLACE OF THE CENTRAL OBRERA BOLIVIANA (COB). LOPEZ HOPES TO SET UP AN APOLITICAL ORGANIZATION WHICH WILL BE DEDICATED SOLELY TO TRADE UNION AFFAIRS.

2. THE FSTMB HAD BEEN THE CHIEF OBSTACLE TO GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO REORGANIZE THE COB (SEE LA PAZ 5364 AND 4988). ALL MINERS AGREE THAT A COB REMODELED TO SUIT THE GOVERNMENT IS UNACCEPTABLE. THE MORE DOCTRINAIRE LEFTISTS IN THE FSTMB BELIEVE THAT THE COB AS TRADITIONALLY CONCEIVED WAS AND WOULD BE AN EFFECTIVE TOOL FOR MOBILIZING POTENTIALLY REVOLUTIONARY ELEMENTS SUCH AS THE WORKERS, CAMPESINOS, STUDENTS AND PROFESSIONALS FOR CLASS STRUGGLE. THEY WOULD PREFER TO SEE THE COB CONTINUE CLOSED RATHER THAN OPENED AS A SIMPLE TRADE UNION ORGANIZATION.

3. IN VIEW OF THIS CONTROVERSY WITHIN THE FSTMB, LOPEZ AND HIS COLLABORATORS PLAN TO MAKE THEIR PRELIMINARY CONTACTS IN THEIR OWN NAME RATHER THAN OF THE FSTMB. THEY HOPE TO ESTABLISH AN INFORMAL COMMITTEE WHICH WILL WRITE UP MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE STATUTES FOR THE NEW ORGANIZATION FOR LATER RATIFICATION.
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TION. THEY DO NOT EXPECT THE GOVERNMENT TO APPROVE AN APOLITICAL

COB THIS YEAR BUT THINK CHANCES WILL BE BETTER NEXT YEAR. LOPEZ
BELIEVES THAT THE "INFANTILE LEFT"-THE TROTSKYITES ANN CHINESE
LINE COMMUNIST PARTY WILL SUFFER REVERSES IN A NUMBER OF MINE
UNION ELECTIONS NEXT MONTH AND THAT THE FSTMB WILL THEN SOLIDLY
BACK HIS INITIATIVES FOR AN APOLITICAL CENTRAL LABOR
ORGANIZATION.
PARKER

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